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## The Observer

Central Washington University

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# The Observer

By the students For the students

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## Ensemble performs 'Hunchback of Notre Dame'

Mary Park  
Staff Reporter

The majestic gothic arches and buttresses, mesmerizing rose windows, bells ringing and stone gargoyles peering over Paris highlight the beauty of Notre Dame Cathedral.

Starting on May 10, the Central Theatre Ensemble will perform "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," a new musical directed by Dr. Terri Brown and based on the Victor Hugo novel and songs from the Disney animated film.

The musical is about the hunchbacked bellringer named Quasimodo, who falls in love with a beautiful Romani woman named Esmeralda and struggles to be accepted by a 15th century French society that mocks and shuns him.

Some students born in the 1990s may remember watching the Disney version as kids, but the stage version has additional songs and tackles darker themes than that of the Disney version.

### The Production

Patrick Disney is an associate chair in the theatre department who helped oversee the production and promote the show.

"It's finally in the air," Disney said. "It's like a big airplane that takes forever to take off and when it's in the air, it's a beautiful thing."



Georgia Mallett/The Observer

The CWU Theatre Ensemble performs a scene in its production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," during practice on April 30. The theatre production will run May 10-12 and May 16-19 in the McConnell Auditorium. Special events such as dinners beforehand will be held on specific days.

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## Student helps others: Financial aid bill passes



Courtesy of Zack Turner

Representative Drew Hansen (center left) who wrote HB 2158, with some of the student legislative liaisons who helped him get the bill passed (left to right) Zack Turner (CWU), Adan Espino (University of Washington), Henry Pollet (Webster Washington University).

Nick Tucker  
Senior News Reporter

With the help of students across the state of Washington, including one from CWU, a bill has been passed in the Washington House of Representatives. The bill is the largest single investment the state has ever made to higher education. House Bill (HB) 2158 puts over

\$375 million toward different measures to boost Washington state's higher education attendance by improving affordability, the most notable of which is called the Washington College Grant program.

The main part of this program is free tuition and fees for students whose families make up 55 percent of Washington's median income, or about \$50,000 a year. The program also provides partial

scholarships for families earning more than this threshold.

Guillermo Rogel Jr. is the Executive Director for the Washington Student Association (WSA) and has been a big advocate for bills like this one aimed at supporting students. He said that this is part of efforts to get attendance in higher education back to levels they were at before the 2008 recession. After the recession, higher education was one of the first places Washington state legislators looked to for budget cuts which drastically reduced higher education attendance.

Every year the ASCWU Office of Legislative Affairs sends a legislative liaison to work at the state capital in Olympia during the legislative session. This student works with other legislative liaisons from all of the public four-year institutions in the state, along with the WSA. Zack Turner, political science major and the ASCWU VP-elect of legislative affairs, was that student this year. He and several other students from around Washington were in Olympia on April 26 when the bill got passed.

"We go meet with legislators and we use our influence to go around and say 'this is what we want, this is what we want, etc.' and just bug the hell out of them," Turner said. "We just keep calling and sending them letters and set up meetings until they help sponsor the bill."

Though the Washington College Grant

program is by far the largest part of the bill, HB 2158 does several other things to help higher education in the state.

### Loan Refinance Program

HB 2158 creates a student loan refinance program so those with private loans taken out for higher education can get those loans refinanced by the state at a very low interest rate.

### Funding Non-College Education

The Career Connected Learning Grant is designed to help pay for trade schools and apprenticeship programs for those whose prospective careers don't require a college degree.

### Subsidized Child Care

Expansions to the Working Child Connection Care program remove the previous work requirement which mandated that parents need to work at least to get subsidized child care. This was while full-time students were restricted from working over 19 hours per week.

### Veteran Support

For veterans going to college, the bill removes the previous 200-credit cap on tuition waivers which prevented some veterans from entering some fields like education and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) which often have college programs that exceed 200 credits.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

# Shootings at universities



**Mariah Valles**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

On Feb. 6 CWU students were in what was perceived to be an active shooter situation for two hours. “Luckily” enough, this situation was a false alarm.

This wasn’t the case for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) on April 29. Nine days after the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting, two students were killed and four others were injured on the last day of UNCC’s classes for the year.

One day after the shooting at UNCC, The Observer published a story detailing the investigation that took two, nearly three months to complete after the false alarm on Feb. 6.

I was just two doors down from The Observer’s newsroom when I was told to evacuate due to an active shooter in the area. Two doors down from a room I spend sometimes 12 hours a day in.

Too close to home.

As soon as I was evacuated I messaged our staff group chat about how I was told to evacuate and why.

That night, The Observer staff relayed information to our Facebook and Twitter followers as it came in. We published multiple follow up stories during the days following the event.

The Niner Times, UNCC’s student-run newspaper, has put out several stories following the shooting at their school, despite one of their own staff members being shot.

The newspaper is putting out a special edition titled “Charlotte Strong” even though the publication’s last scheduled issue for the school year already came out.

Covering the night of CWU’s false alarm and the days following were draining as a young student journalist. Putting myself in the shoes of the staff at the Niner Times is something I’m unable to do.

I’ve followed their coverage and I am so proud to be in the same generation of journalists as those at the Niner Times. They handled a situation none of us should have to go through with eloquence and pride.

Maybe one day we won’t have to think or talk about active shooters, false alarm or not, at all. I hope that in the coming weeks when the after action report is released for the events of Feb. 6, students are assured their voices were heard following the event.

I also hope that in the fall when the active shooter training video should be completed, students take advantage of the resource.

Best,  
Mariah Valles  
Editor-in-Chief

# Funding bill passes

Continued from Page 1

## Funding for Native American Students

The Washington Opportunity Scholarship allows Native American tribes to put money into a fund which is then matched dollar-for-dollar by the state before being provided to members of the tribes attending higher education.

## Funding the Bill

HB 2158 is being funded with an increase in taxes on businesses which require workers with higher education, such as doctors, lawyers and engineers. Because of this increase in taxes Republicans in the Washington House of Representatives heavily opposed the bill. However, some of the businesses which would be facing increased taxes have come out in support of the bill. Microsoft, along with Amazon, is facing some

of the biggest tax increases. In an op-ed for the Seattle Times, Microsoft President Brad Smith called on Microsoft and other big tech companies to contribute more to higher education so an economic catastrophe like the 2008 recession doesn’t have as much of an impact.

“We must act now when our economy is healthy. We need to structure a dedicated fund that will better ride out and resist budget cuts when, sooner or later, we inevitably confront the next recession,” Smith said. “Let’s ask the largest companies in the tech sector, which are the largest employers of high-skilled talent, to do a bit more.”

The bill will come into effect over the next two years, most likely being fully implemented in time for the 2020-21 academic year. When that happens, all students will need to do is apply for financial aid in order to take advantage of the new financial assistance being provided to them.

# Photo of the week



Shawna Hettick/The Observer  
*A longhorn cow stands in a field surrounded by black-eyed susans in the hills of Ellensburg.*

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Editor: Jack Belcher

# Faculty senate speaks on university advancement

**Dez Rodriguez**  
*Staff Reporter*

According to CWU Provost Katherine Frank, 92 faculty members are registered to attend commencement. Concerns over the low number was discussed amongst faculty senate members on May 1 at the faculty senate meeting in Barge Hall 412. Frank said the number is very disappointing for a college that prides itself on student-faculty connections.

**International Travel Policy**

The proposed international travel policy would better define what counts as university-related international travel. In turn, this would open up doors to be able to send more students abroad looking to travel for their education while making sure they remain safe.

Executive Director of International Studies & Programs Ediz Kaykayoglu said he often wakes up at 4 a.m. to check the news. Kaykayoglu uses this time to see if his abroad students are safe in whatever country they might be in. CWU sends about 230-250 students abroad.

In January of 2018, the U.S. Department of State issued travel advisories for every country around the world. They ranked them one through four, level one being the safest and level four being off limits for travel. For

example, Venezuela and Syria have level four advisories while Ireland and Costa Rica are amongst the level ones.

The policy would further implement these advisories, while still requiring students to have insurance plans in place before traveling.

“Overall, the idea of this [policy] is

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That’s why we’re here. To engage alumni and donors to the good things that are happening on campus...

**Scott Wade, vice president of university advancement**

”

to put the structure so that we support our programs,” Kaykayoglu said.

**University Advancement**

CWU’s Vice President of University Advancement Scott Wade said that for the first time ever, university advancement produced a physical 2018

impact report. The report goes into detail about performance from the last seven years, more specifically about funding they receive through alumni and donor engagement.

University advancement went from raising \$2 million in 2012 to \$8.5 million in 2018, according to Wade. Their organizational structure handles everything from foundation accounting to compliance.

The organization also makes sure scholarships and donor funds are going to the things that the donors intended them for. Their communications and alumni relations focus on building opportunities for alumni to engage not only on campus, but where they live as well. Wade said they spend a lot of time driving up and down Interstate 5 because he said that of the 110,000 CWU alumni, 80,000 of them still live in Washington state.

Donor relations and development focuses on how they talk to people that have the opportunity to financially invest in the institution. Once settled, they focus on letting alumni know the impact they’re making from the contributions they’re giving.

“That’s why we’re here. To engage alumni and donors to the good things that are happening on campus and provide them with opportunities to give back,” Wade said.

Development for more opportuni-

ties to give back is currently being processed. Wade said alumni engagement officers may be put in each academic colleges to help with these cases.

“I’ve had people ask ‘how can you beg for money for your job,’” Wade said. “That’s not what it feels like. We’re interested in building lifelong relationships with people with the institution.”

**Motion No. 18-67**

Faculty senate members continued to vote through the meeting to approve motions 18-65 through 18-81. They included a new minor in special education high incidence, a new child development specialization and a new Wine Studies bachelors degree program. The group came to a consensus on all but one, motion No. 18-67, which they voted back to the committee to discuss things further.

Motion No. 18-67 recommends assigning final exam days early to have ready on the syllabus by the start of the quarter. However, professors normally don’t know the exact day, time and location until day 30 of the quarter. Some professors were concerned about “odd-ball” class times and wanted to avoid getting the days mixed up from the original day scheduled at the start.

“I don’t know why [students] do this, but they schedule vacations during exam week, or they plan for their grandmother to die during exam week,” a committee member said. “We want to know the schedule as soon as possible.”

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Editor: Jack Belcher

# Mental health stigma discussed



Nick Tucker/The Observer

(Left to right) Joshua Nelson-Ichido, Jamie Gilbert, Dr. Meaghan Nolte and Dr. Arrington Stoll listen to Mariah Greenaway leading discussion with the student audience.

## Nick Tucker

Senior News Reporter

A discussion on mental health led by four CWU faculty members was attended by about a dozen students on Wednesday, May 1. The event was hosted by the CWU Communications Department Honor Society Lambda Pi Eta and the Psychology Club, and was led by Mariah Greenaway, a member of Lambda Pi Eta.

"We asked, 'what can we do to address problems students have on campus?'" Greenaway said. "Lots of people brought up anxiety, depression, [etc.] So we thought why not get some faculty together and talk about it?"

The event started with a presentation by the faculty panelists on mental health stigma and research with each panelist speaking on a specific field of study, followed by questions asked by the audience.

Communications and Asian studies professor Joshua Nelson-Ichido spoke on stigma theory and the fundamentals of stigma. According to him, when we stigmatize someone, we mark them as a separate social entity from us and the rest of our idealized version of society.

The stigma surrounding mental health and its impact on those struggling were the main theme of the presentation. Dr. Meaghan Nolte, a psychology professor, spoke on stigma specifically as it relates to mental health. Communications professor Dr. Arrington Stoll presented data on mental health in the United States and what research has been found on those struggling with mental health. Jamie Gilbert, public relations professor and chair of SOURCE (Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression) told her story of mental health and how it led her to the career she has now.

Nelson-Ichido began the presenta-

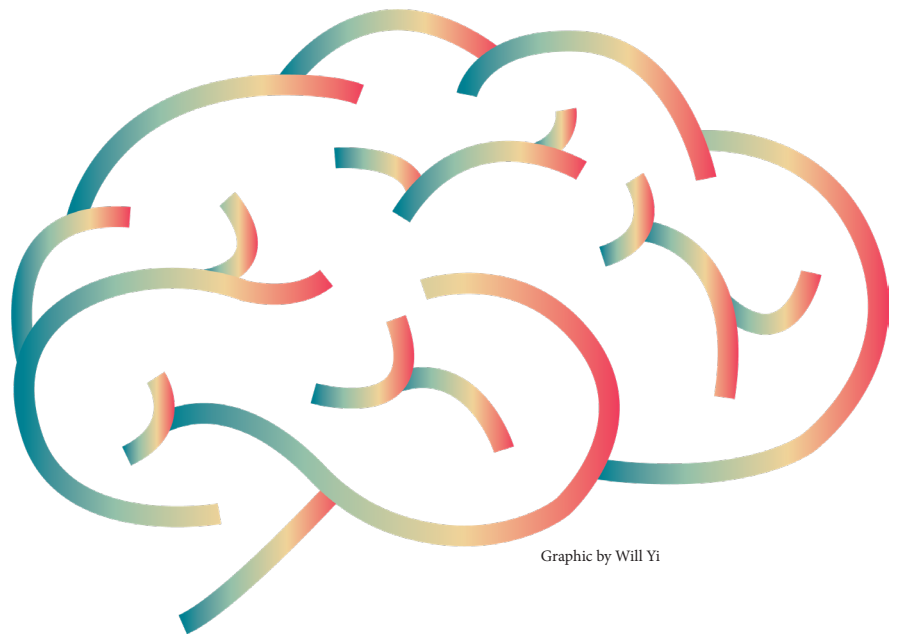
tion by defining stigma and speaking on the psychological implications that stigmatizing has. He said that stigma isn't passive and that we actively link someone to "social peril" or a threat to society in some way.

"Stigma means I see you as someone who is a threat not only to you, but as something we don't want for society," Nelson-Ichido said.

He went on to speak about how when we mark people through stigma, we generally put fault on them for their stigma. Stigma isn't just a problem because it's mean to people, it impacts hiring processes, promotions, health treatment and many parts of daily life. Nelson-Ichido clarified through his part of the presentation that stigmatization isn't just a result of bad people. He said that everyone does it through a variety of complicated factors relating to how our brains naturally label people

impacts specifically youth who develop a psychotic disorder and often go through an identity change, knowing that other people will begin to stigmatize them.

better understand the struggles and needs of her son. According to Gilbert, this followed a disagreement with one of her son's counselors who said that she could take it up with his boss after



Graphic by Will Yi

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Imagine how confident you are if you stigmatize yourself.

**Dr. Meaghan Nolte, assistant professor of psychology**

”

so we can easily understand them.

Dr. Meaghan Nolte worked in a mental health crisis team and spoke on how stigma impacts issues of mental health. She said that we mostly see psychosis in movies and other media as a plot point or in the form of characters who are "crazy," and that this

"We know how stigma negatively impacts people and changes perceptions of them," Dr. Nolte said. "Imagine how confident you are if you stigmatize yourself."

According to research presented by Dr. Stoll, over half of people in the U.S. have some sort of mental illness and only half of those with mental health issues will get any kind of treatment. Lots of people, she said, don't get treatment due to the stigma surrounding mental health even if they have the financial means.

Gilbert ended the presentation talking about how her son was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). She said she used to be a professional photographer but went back to school so she could research ASD and

she becomes a doctor. Now Gilbert is on her way to getting her Ph.D.

After the panelists gave their presentation, discussion was opened up with the audience who asked about their own struggles with mental health and how they deal with the stigma surrounding it.

One student asked the panelists for a better way to ask the question "is there anything I can do to help" which he said his friends often found impossible to answer on the spot.

"Focus on making sure they know that you are there for them. Offer your support and advice when they ask for it," Nelson-Ichido said. "The hard part is sticking to it. It's easy to worry and want to help your friends but you can't crowd them, they have to come to you."



Editor: Cassandra Hays



Georgia Mallett/The Observer

The CWU Theatre Ensemble performs a scene in its production of “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.” The musical will adhere to the basic plot of the popular Disney movie while also focusing on several overarching themes, including power dynamics and religious corruption. Over 100 people are involved with the production of the musical, which opens May 10 at 7:30 p.m. in McConnell Hall.

# ‘Hunchback’ to focus on relevant issues

## Continued from Page 1

According to Dizney, there are over a hundred people involved with the production, with 45 of them on stage and 60 to 80 people working off stage. Many of those involved have started working on the play since the beginning of this term in January.

“It’s a phenomenal showcase of our students’ talents,” Dizney said. “I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

While actors spent weeks rehearsing and researching their characters, the backstage crew worked on building the world of the play. The scene shop built and painted scenery, the lighting designer planned which lights will be used, costume designers and makeup artists prepared their pieces and much more went on behind the scenes.

Scene designer Riley Allen said his department was responsible for “framing the world,” which included the platform, the railing, the flooring and the backdrops.

Allen said although they won’t recreate the cathedral on stage, they will depict some of the architectural elements such as stained glass windows, archways and brickwork.

Jerry Dougherty is the production manager, who coordinated schedules and budgets and supervised the production.

He said while the production team will do their best to put on a good show, the main goal of the theatre department is to create artists and the show is a happy byproduct.

“I try to remind people [...] every-time when we get together as a big group, to practice patience and instant forgiveness and remember that the students are the product, not the show,” Dougherty said.

Erin Crocker, a senior studying theatre and specializing in design and production, is the stage manager for “The Hunchback.”

The stage manager’s many responsibilities include making sure everyone involved in the production gets to where

they need to be, that the show starts on time, is performed safely and for the exact timing of every technical piece that happens during the show.

Crocker said her favorite part of “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” is the music combined with the visual spectacle.

“It has some beautiful themes, a beautiful set [and] beautiful lights, and it has more choral aspect to the music than what we do normally,” Crocker said. “It’s a story that I would hope that the audience will get something out of, in the same way that we have enjoyed putting the show together.”

### Main Themes

Dougherty said while the production is using the basic plot from the Disney story, the musical version “puts some teeth into some harder ideas to contemplate.”

“The plight of the Romani people, the power dynamic structure is probably the hardest storyline,” Dougherty said.

Crocker also explained there are many themes that are relevant to students on campus and to Americans as a whole.

“There’s thoughts of power, thoughts of immigration, thoughts of religious corruption in some moments,” Crocker said. “There’s conversations about sexual assault, there’s a lot of overarching themes that you don’t expect in a Disney show.”

On April 15, the world watched as a fire engulfed the cathedral and altered the Paris skyline. For many students and faculty in the CWU Theatre Department, the significance of Notre Dame grew stronger.

“[The production crew felt] the great sense of loss that... a lot of people [felt] because such an iconic piece of architecture and house of worship [had] been lost,” Dougherty said.

Steven Macias, a sophomore in musical theatre, said when the fire burned Notre Dame, the global support the cathedral received showed its importance to many people.

Macias said when Victor Hugo first wrote the book, it was to preserve the Notre Dame Cathedral.

“[He wanted] to let people know that Notre Dame doesn’t strictly belong to Par-

is, it belongs to everybody,” Macias said.

Dizney said the cathedral is important not just as an architectural achievement, but as a symbol for many things like community, faith and hope.

“I think it’s really worthy and relevant now for us to consider where do we put our faith today,” Dizney said. “What do we trust, what do we believe in, [and] how do we understand community in our own world?”

He said one of the most important themes in the story that is relevant today is a marginalization of a specific population based on ethnicity or what country they come from.

“The title character Quasimodo does not fit into our normal mode of how we see people,” Dizney said. “So he is persecuted, completely marginalized because of what people choose to see about him. What this show talks about is, ‘what is a monster and what is a man?’ and I think there is a duality in all of us.”

### The Actors

Jackson Bouchard, a senior in musical theatre who plays Archdeacon Claude Frollo, said he prepared for his “emotionally disturbed” character by thinking about why Frollo says or acts a certain way.

“Any time you play any character on stage, you really want to be able to empathize with them and not be judgmental of their actions,” Bouchard said. “Because if you’re [judging them], then I think you’re creating a wall and a barrier that’s going to show in your performance.”

Macias, who plays Quasimodo, said it’s one of the most difficult roles that he has ever had to do.

“Not only is it challenging vocally, but it’s challenging acting-wise,” Macias said. “I watched how [silent film] actors said what they needed to say without saying a word, so I wanted to portray that in Quasimodo. So even when he’s not speaking, he’s telling you something and expressing how he feels.”

Benjamin Usher, a senior in musical theatre who plays Clopin, said he spent as much as 36 hours a week doing character research, memorizing lines and working at

the scene shop. He said Victor Hugo’s novel is not just a story, but “a call to action.”

“It’s a ‘why are you being a bigot when everything that you stand for says otherwise or should say otherwise, why are you telling people that you can’t come to the church?’” Usher said. “Jesus wasn’t supposed to come to save the healthy, he was supposed to come to save the sick and if you’re saying that these people are not healthy, why are you turning them away?”

Bouchard said because Victor Hugo’s story has many themes to explore, different adaptations focus on ones that are relevant to that era. He said the play is relevant to today’s society because it deals with prejudice.

“Right now, this has so much to do with the current political context and the controversy surrounding who we should and shouldn’t allow in this country,” Bouchard said. “So I think that’ll really resonate with people in this production.”

## Show Dates and Pricing

**When:** May 10-11 and 16-18 at 7:30 p.m., May 12 and 19 at 2 p.m.

**Where:** McConnell Hall

**Cost:** Adults \$20/15 | Seniors \$17/12 | Alumni \$17/12 | Students \$17/12 | CWU student with ID \$8

Tickets can be purchased at [www.cwu.edu/theatre/tickets](http://www.cwu.edu/theatre/tickets)  
For more information, call the Theatre department at (509)963-1750



Editor: Cassandra Hays

# The SQ food review

Sean Quinn  
Staff Reporter

I consider myself a “foodie,” which is a way to describe someone with a larger-than-life passion for food and restaurant culture, without the credentials of a chef. As a foodie, I’ve made it a goal to visit new restaurants and cafes throughout the five years I’ve lived here. Believe it or not, Ellensburg has a very unique and diverse food scene, not very typical for a smaller sized town. From Mexican to Japanese food, with the occasional burger place mixed in, this college town has a lot to choose from when it comes to dining. This is a list of five food places I recommend to help you discover some hidden gems.



Sean Quinn/The Observer

### FAVORITE BRUNCH: THE EARLY BIRD CAFE

At first glance, when you drive by this breakfast joint on Water Street it looks like the front porch at a local’s house. However, when you step inside you are greeted by something much more unique: a small yet warm cafe with a cashier greeting you with a smile. At this cafe, you order your food and beverage beforehand and you seat yourself. The most unique aspect to this cafe has to be the outdoor patio. It is filled to the brim with green flora surrounding large wooden picnic tables. Although, not your average breakfast place featuring pancakes or French toast, this calm spot features other tasty items like biscuits and gravy, a savory waffle and avocado toast. I personally enjoyed the scramble bowl, which was better than most omelets I’ve ever had a chance to try. On a sunny, warm summer morning, there really is no better place to sit outside and enjoy a nice brunch.



Sean Quinn/The Observer

### FAVORITE SIT-DOWN RESTAURANT: THE RED PICKLE

My favorite sit-down restaurant, right in the heart of downtown Ellensburg is The Red Pickle. Scroll through their Yelp Page and you will see it’s not just hype; The Red Pickle is a restaurant overwhelmed with five-star ratings, and for good reason. What originally started as a food truck outside of Whipsaw Brewery has become a booming, fun and inviting restaurant. There are many unique dishes at this place but I personally recommend their burgers, like the Gauchito or the Super Gaucho. Don’t forget the rosemary fries on the side. The Red Pickle is also known for their smoking mixed drinks--such as their smoked maple manhattan. When you arrive, you are almost guaranteed to be greeted by owner Mario Alfaro Lopez. His outgoing and friendly nature has paid off as it continues to bring back numerous customers like community resident Laci Harrison.

“Mario is always so personable and enthusiastically wants feedback from his customers. It’s been great to watch his business grow and expand,” Harrison said.

Alfaro Lopez has gained recognition for his efforts. He won the 2019 Excellence on Main Award, also known as the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Washington State Main Street Program.

### FAVORITE LATE NIGHT SNACK: HOT DIGGIDY DOG

Parked on the corner of Third Ave. and Main Street, Hot Diggidy Dog is only open late on Friday and Saturday nights. Similar to what you’d get outside a typical American baseball stadium, these hot dogs come with different toppings. As someone who hails from Seattle, I consider the art of crafting a true Seattle Dog a special kind of talent. The right mix of cream cheese and sautéed onions determines the quality of the Seattle Dog. I get Hot Diggidy Dog’s version every time I visit here, and have always left stuffed and satisfied. Frequent customer Logan Kral had this to say about the only hot dog-specific spot in town.

“[It’s] one of the only places to grab a bite to eat after 10 p.m. in town that’s not the usual fast food. Many topping choices and a friendly staff round out this excellent option for getting your meat fix well into the night,” Kral said.

### FAVORITE FOREIGN CUISINE: KIKU-CHAN JAPANESE RESTAURANT

When you come from the westside of the mountains like I do, you’re used to being within a short distance of a massive variety of foreign food delicacies to choose from. In Ellensburg, we are fortunate enough to have such a large number of food options to choose from that isn’t your typical burger shack or barbeque restaurant. Out of the many places I sampled, only one place stood out for its convenient proximity to CWU’s campus, as well as friendly staff and quality non-American food. That place is Kiku-Chan, which serves Japanese food, from sushi to bento boxes, to teriyaki and yakisoba. Those who are familiar with Asian restaurants in the larger cities will appreciate this smaller, more comfortable and quieter sit-down cafe. Prices vary but most entrees are around 10 bucks. Alongside the food you can also drink sake, a traditional Japanese alcoholic beverage you can only realistically get at this type of a restaurant.



Bram Wiggins/The Observer

### FAVORITE DESSERT PLACE: UTOPIA FROZEN YOGURT AND COFFEE HOUSE

When you first walk through the doors of Utopia Frozen Yogurt and Coffee House, one could assume it’s just a place to get a nice bowl of frozen yogurt on a hot day. However, walk a few more steps toward the back and you find out the place is also an established cafe. On one end, you get eight different frozen yogurt flavors to choose from along with over a dozen of toppings. On the other end, different small bites like breakfast sandwiches, bagels, box meals and drinks like coffee, summer drinks and even smoothies. With the frozen yogurt bowls being 47 cents per ounce, it’s considerably affordable for a nice after-dinner dessert. One frequent customer by the name of Tom Harbaugh appreciates the growth of Utopia from dessert place to full-fledged cafe.

“I’ve seen Utopia really grow with the student population in the last few years. They went from being a humble little soft serve place to a full-blown cafe. They get really creative with the food that they serve too,” Harbaugh said.

Everyone has their own individual flavors they like, but I usually go with the vanilla topped with Oreo cookies and chocolate chips. You can never have too much chocolate!



Bram Wiggins/The Observer



Editor: Cassandra Hays

# Mentor program impacts local youth

**Emma Johnson**  
Staff Reporter

The Youth Services of Kittitas County strives to help the youth of the Ellensburg community through their youth mentor program, according to Claire Church, executive director of the youth services. The youth mentor program is designed to give young people in Ellensburg an adult figure to look up to. According to Church, the mentor program started in 2013, and the organization itself has been open since 1971.

The age range for youth who have the opportunity to be mentored is 5-18 years old. For people who are looking to become mentors, they must be 18 years old or older. There are currently 15 matched mentors to mentees. There are 10-15 mentors that are still looking for matches, according to Alice Nelson, a specialist for youth services. The mentor to mentee match process all starts with the application. The applications ask the mentors about their interests and a little bit about themselves. They are also asked to list what they are not interested in so the program coordinators can find a mentee that would fit well with the mentor's interests.

The same process goes for mentees looking for a mentor. The mentor and mentee will then meet and spend about one hour together, and after that time, they will both decide if they think the match would be a good fit or not. If



Bram Wiggins/The Observer

David Douglas, along with many others, works with local kids through the youth services' mentor program. Mentors and mentees meet up for a few hours each week.

either the mentor or the mentee decide it would not be a good fit, they both go back through the matching process until that perfect match is found, Nelson said.

Once the matches are found, the mentor goes through a three hour training process that goes over different scenarios that could happen while the mentor is with the mentee. Once that is done, they meet once a week for 12 months. During their meeting time, they do assorted activities based off of what the pairs interests are. After the 12

months, if they both decide they want to continue, they will go on for longer.

Those who cannot make the commitment of meeting with a mentee every week for a few hours at a time can have the option of going to the school of the mentee and having lunch with them or participating in after school homework help. Both of these options are great for college students who go home for the summer because they can be involved with the mentor program, but still be away from Ellensburg for the summer.

Other ways CWU students can get involved are by doing practicum hours at the youth center or doing internships through youth services, according to Church.

Youth services collaborates with schools in the district to get the word out to students who might be interested in the program. The schools can get the students set up with applications.

According to Nelson, having a mentor positively affects the mentee's academics, attendance at school and overall mental health when there is someone they can look up to outside of their family as an adult figure.

"I think having connections with humans is the most important thing we can do in our lives," Church said. "With all the adversity that kids face today, it is shown through the data that the connection with an adult outside of their family circle is the number one resilience building factor for kids today."

Church said it is fun to watch how the mentors tap into their inner child while interacting with the kids they are mentoring. She gets to see a different side of the mentors than most people see.

"They take off their work hats and play," Church said.

Church also talked about how nice it is for adults to see just how intelligent the youth are today and how they are able to see that the future is bright in the hands of young people. The Kittitas County Youth Services' building is on Third St. in downtown Ellensburg.

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# PolyFest celebrates Polynesian culture

Story By: Austin Lane

Design By: Will Yi

Photos By: Georgia Mallet

There is a variety of clubs that focus on culture at CWU. One of those clubs is PolyCentral. Every year, PolyCentral hosts PolyFest, a celebration of Polynesian culture with food, dance and other activities. The event focuses on bringing people of every race or background together.

This year, the celebration kicked off with a barbecue on the Barto Lawn. The barbecue had foods such as rice, macaroni salad, barbecue short ribs, barbecue chicken and kalua pig. Later in the evening the event had performances, special guest appearances and trivia in the McIntyre Concert Hall.

While the event was free to CWU students, only 300 tickets were given out to attend the barbecue. The tickets were sold out prior to the date. The evening activities were first come, first seated. The performances highlighted cultures from the islands of Fiji, Hawaii, New Zealand, Samoa, Tahiti and Tonga.

PolyFest Student Programmer Britanie Martinez said PolyFest is a big annual event on campus and is happy it stayed that way once again

this year.

"I think it's a huge thing for all the Polynesian students out here in Ellensburg to showcase their culture," Martinez said. "I think PolyFest is always a big turnout and I feel like every year there is a group of people out here that always looks forward to PolyFest."

Martinez is a senior and wanted her final PolyFest to be a good one. She gave all that she had into this year's event.

"We hit a million bumps in the road where I was so close to cancelling PolyFest but I slept on it, I took time to think about it... putting this on makes me really happy and I guess seeing the outcome of it makes me even more happy," Martinez said.

The event was presented by the Diversity and Equity Center as well as PolyCentral, the Polynesian-student club on campus. Vice president of the club Destiny Vaiolo thinks that keeping culture alive is one of the reasons PolyFest is important.

"It's a good way to have the Polynesian students get together and feel like they can have a safe place

to be with people that look the same as them," Vaiolo said. "Also we don't just have Polynesians in our group... you're allowed to be anything, you can just come and hang out with us, you can dance with us."

One dancer in this year's PolyFest was Jonah Auvaa. For Auvaa, dance is only a small way to showcase Polynesian culture.

"Polynesian people have a reputation for being some of the friendliest people you can meet," Auvaa said. "It's really a small way to get our culture out there and show people what we're about. Dance is a little part of it, but it's also a big part too."

Auvaa looked forward to finally getting on stage and performing after practicing and preparing for the event for about three months. Auvaa is a student athlete on the men's rugby team, but that doesn't stop him from participating in dance practices for PolyFest.

"A lot of us play sports so it's like 'go to weights, practice and then go straight to dance' when we're all super tired," Auvaa said.

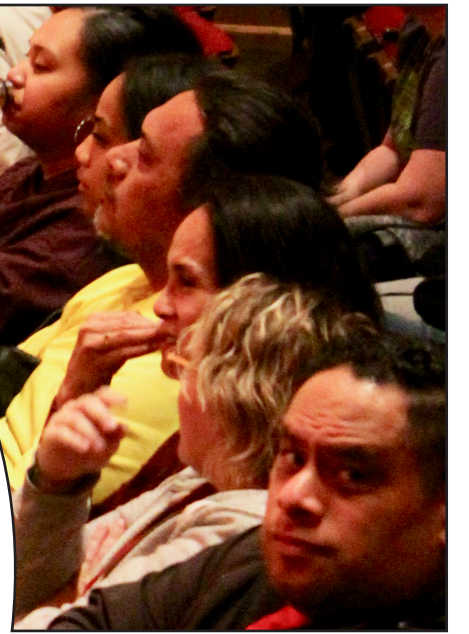
One Polynesian dance you may

have recently seen in person or on the internet, called a "haka," was performed in the McIntyre Hall for the event. According to media.new-zealand.com, the haka is an ancient posture dance of the New Zealand Māori that was traditionally used to prepare a war party for battle. The New Zealand national rugby union team "All Blacks" made a specific type of haka popular, a choreographed dance and chant called "Ka Mate, Ka Mate."

After the New Zealand Christchurch mosque shootings in March, hundreds of high school students and other New Zealanders gathered from around the country and performed the haka dance to honor those that were killed and injured in the shooting.

Students that are a part of PolyCentral participated in dances to celebrate Polynesian culture. Anyone is open to attending the dance practices leading up to PolyFest to take part in the once-a-year opportunity. More information on joining the organization can be found on PolyCentral's Instagram page @cwupolycentral.





PolyFest is a celebration of culture from the islands of Hawaii, Fiji, Samoa, New Zealand, Tonga and Tahiti. The event took place at the McIntyre Concert Hall & Lawn on May 2.



Performances put on at PolyFest included traditional Polynesian dances. These dances included students wearing traditional outfits.



PolyFest is an annual CWU event. Some performer danced without shoes, which is common in the Polynesian culture.



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Editor: Hanson Lee

# Jason Momoa's Aquaman... and Barnacle Boy?

**Kyle Wilkinson**

Columnist

"Aquaman" was a reel (get it) pleasure to watch. The fight scenes were pretty epic. I mean, who doesn't enjoy watching Arthur/Aquaman played by Jason Momoa, wield a golden trident, communicate with sharks and lift submarines from the bottom of the ocean? The love story was there as well, and of course everyone in the SURC Theater applauded when Mera, played by Amber Heard, and Arthur kissed during the action-packed last battle of the movie.

I couldn't help but think of "Spongebob Squarepants" during the entire movie. I understand that the creators of "Spongebob" probably took a lot of the information from the original "Aquaman" comics to use for their Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy skits, but I still couldn't help but draw the comparisons.

In "Aquaman," Arthur's arch-nemesis is Black Manta, a villain that shoots laser beams from his eyes and holds a personal grudge against the main character. In the "Spongebob" series, Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy's arch nemesis is Man Ray. Coincidence? I think not! They even look similar with their glowing red eyes.

Speaking of Black Manta, how about that end scene? I won't spoil it, but that definitely sets the plot for the next movie...

The movie "Aquaman" also seemed to push an agenda. There were several scenes that talked about pollution in the world's oceans and how humans are having negative environmental im-



Graphic by Will Yi

pacts on water in general. The Atlanteans, essentially humans that evolved to breathe underwater, waged their first attack on people from the surface by sending their garbage and ocean-going vessels back onto land. References to these scenes indicate how Atlanteans were tired of humans polluting their waters for years and how they decided to send it all back at once as a form of retaliation.

The movie denotes that pollution is a problem and needs to be brought to the forefront of our minds. It advocates for change. There was also a point in the movie when Arthur calls

out the people in political office and how they are doing a poor job of running the show. This again is an advocate for change in how we manage the world's oceans.

The action scenes were great and the costumes were intricate and, quite frankly, pretty sick. The plot was ok, but it became distracting when the timelines jumped around and seemed to completely miss some aspects of the story. The beginning of the movie seemed a bit sped up and skipped straight into the main plot, as opposed to introducing the characters a bit more. Learning about Arthur's back-

ground and history was a bit confusing, since it was spread throughout the movie. I understand that this might be fairly common for superhero movies, but it personally threw me off.

Watching movies at CWU's Monday Movie Madness is a blast. These showings are often less formal than watching films in a movie theater. Students often cheer for the good guy, laugh at jokes and clap at the end of the film. This adds to the overall atmosphere of the movie-going experience. "Aquaman" was an action-packed movie and I'm glad I was able to watch it with my friends and peers at CWU.

# Russell Wilson's max contract: A long time coming

**Bram Wiggins**

Columnist

Russell Wilson has just signed a record-breaking contract that puts me and many other NFL fans in shock. Wilson's new deal settled at four years, \$140 million, with \$107 million guaranteed. The deal includes a no-trade clause, according to NBC Sports Northwest. This makes Wilson the highest paid quarterback in the NFL.

Overall, Russell Wilson does indeed deserve a deal like this after the accomplishments he has already brought to Seattle at such a young age. Wilson holds the Seahawks franchise records for the most wins, touchdown passes and Super Bowl victories at only 30 years old. He clearly has a lot more football left in him.

An interesting poll via Twitter done by @NickHPatterson asks: "Is Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson worth his four-year, \$140 million contract extension?" Fans responded and the polls resulted in Wilson winning 65 percent of votes, stating that he does deserve the new record-breaking deal.

The 2019 NFL Draft had very little quarterback talent making it quite challenging to find another guy like Wilson in this year's NFL Draft. If we were not to re-sign Wilson, we would be without a top tier quarterback for at least a few years down the road. Wilson works great with our offense and the team loves the energy he brings forth on game day. After reading an article done by Adam Stites titled, "The Seahawks were abso-



Mariah Valles/The Observer

lutely correct to make Russell Wilson the NFL's highest-paid player," Stites said "Wilson isn't just a good player -- he's a five-time Pro Bowler."

Wilson has not missed the NFL MVP Award by much the last two seasons and never had a passer rating below 92, which is incredible. Passing more than 3,000 yards is not easy and Wilson has exceeded that in every season he has played in. Never having a

losing season or missing any games due to injury are just more reasons as to why Wilson truly deserves this contract even more than any other quarterback within the NFL.

Before Wilson came to Seattle in 2012, the Seahawks had never won a Super Bowl and had a losing season nearly every single year since the team was established in 1976 under head coach Jack Patera.

Wilson didn't just bring high-level

football back to Seattle, he brought the whole community much closer and elevated Seattle's status around the country, and even parts of the world through his passion and care he showed for his fans outside of just the game of football. The NFL is not just about a sport, it's a business. If you want fans to watch, you must pay their favorite players in order to do so. I should highlight the fact that this last season was supposed to be a year to rebuild after losing many other big stars, such as Cliff Avril, Michael Bennett, Kam Chancellor and Richard Sherman, all of whom were Pro Bowl players and potential Hall of Famers one day. Something Tim Booth for Chicago Sun Times said that I agree with, "The five-time Pro Bowl selection is coming off arguably his best season as Seattle went a surprising 10-6 and earned an NFC wild card before losing to Dallas in the opening round of the playoffs. It was supposed to be a rebuilding year, but the Seahawks were ahead of schedule thanks to their return to a run-first offense and Wilson's exceptional performance when tasked to throw."

Wilson is no doubt a special talent and vital to our team. One could argue he was the sole reason we were still able to pull off a pretty solid season last year, when nobody expected much from the Seahawks at all.

I am very pleased to still have Wilson as "our guy." I have no doubt about his work ethic and preparation skills as quarterback for the remainder of his time in Seattle. He definitely deserved his record-breaking contract.



Editor: Hanson Lee

# Campus living: Not always the best first year option

**Emma Johnson**  
*Columnist*

CWU requires students to live on campus their first year, but that should not be a requirement for every student. Studies say living on campus will ensure higher graduation rates, but maybe some students do not fit as well in this study. For students attending their first year at a university, it is required they live on campus their first year. For some students, this is a great option. They get to have their meals made in the dining hall, they have resident assistants (RAs) who can answer any questions and they can dive slowly into adult world. However, living on campus is not for everyone.

First of all, living off campus could be the cheaper option right off the bat. According to the CWU Housing and Dining Services Room and Board Contract Rates, the absolute lowest contract is about \$6,608 including a meal plan for nine months. The average cost for a contract is roughly \$9,000 for nine months. If one were to get an apartment or house that is theoretically costing them \$500 a month with a roommate or two, the student would be paying about \$600 less than the minimum amount one pays on campus per year.

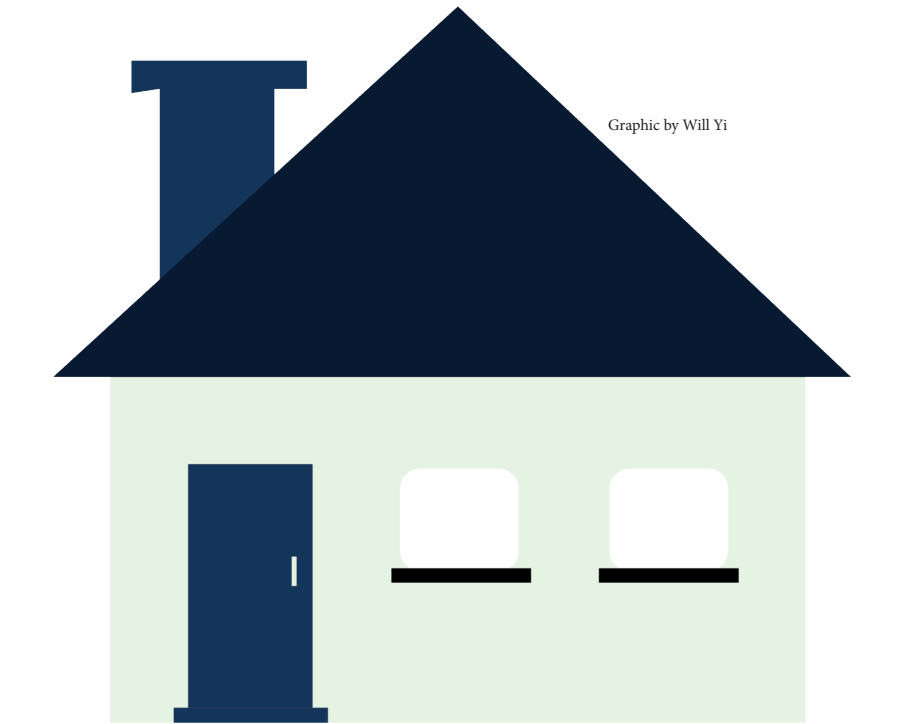
For students who could have cheaper options or have the option of still living at home, the university will still require that a student lives on campus their first year, due to graduation success rates. This information can be found on the campus housing page. The process of getting ap-

proved to move out of the dorms starts with the student filling out an application, writing a letter to the school, having a parent write a letter to the school, and whoever else the student will be living with has to write a letter as well, according to the CWU Housing website.

Another reason living on campus is not for everyone is the preference of independence and privacy. While living in the dorms with roommates and sharing a room with someone can be a good experience for some students, it should be an option for students to live with other people in such close proximities. If they do not want to do that, perhaps the university is making it less of a hassle on students could impact their studies and their quality of experience at a university could improve greatly.

Living off campus could help better prepare students for the real world and adulthood, and living in the dorms could set them back a bit. Learning how to pay bills, pay rent, take care of a house and all of the financial aspects of renting a house or apartment is a great way to prepare students for when they start their careers and look into more of a variety of housing options like buying or renting a house.

While some off campus students do not have the option of living close enough to campus to ride a bike or walk, the public transportation services in college towns is very accommodating to where they stop and pick students up, and the schedules can normally run around anyone's class schedule. This could save students the hassle of having to buy a park-



ing pass, which according to CWU, costs \$224 for a year long pass, and trying to find a parking spot. Plus, it will save the students money on gas and a parking pass if they are able to commute in alternative ways other than driving.

Students who live off campus could have more ways to eat healthier. While on campus foods are getting more accommodating to diets, it is much easier to find fried and processed foods, rather than fresh, nutritious foods. Cooking for oneself could help students avoid food allergens as well.

Students who want to be involved in the university they go to and make the most of their college experience, have great opportunities with living on campus, but in reality, that will not be every student. Not every student will enjoy living on campus. Going to college is a step in between being under a parent or guardian's roof and being a full blown adult. But, in the end, most college students are making many choices for themselves, so universities giving students the option to live off campus could improve their higher education experience.

# Parking problems persist as parking tickets pile up

**Cassandra Hays**  
*Columnist*

This is a story nearly every student at CWU has told. Class starts in ten minutes and you're still circling the parking lot looking for a spot. You think you see one up ahead, but alas, someone drives up and takes it before you can get there. You end up walking into class ten minutes late after finally finding a spot across campus, armed with the common excuse that you couldn't find parking.

It's no secret that the parking situation at CWU leaves a lot to be desired. It's an issue that students who commute have to face on a daily basis. Every day is a struggle to find a parking spot and make it to class on time.

It's understandable why students are so fed up with parking. For one, it's expensive! A parking pass for the year—from September to September—will run you \$224, a price that many students think is outrageous considering it will not guarantee you a parking spot. Parking Services usually sells more passes than there are spaces available, working under the assumption that not every student will be on campus at the same time. As a result, the parking lots tend to be completely full during popular class times, and students have to fight over a spot. With about 11,500 students at CWU, many of whom drive, it is understandable that there will never be enough parking spots for everyone. Still, it is extremely frustrating as it seems like little is being done to improve the situation.

The truth of it is, the lack of parking deters students from going to class. I know countless people, myself included, who have just given up and gone home



Heather Stewart/The Observer

rather than drive around a full parking lot for 20 minutes. Many students will even park in the designated 30-minute parking spots and risk getting a ticket if it means getting to class on time.

So, what can you do to help ease your frustration with the parking at CWU? One of the most obvious and simple solutions is to leave the house earlier. Leaving an extra 10 to 15 minutes early for class will give you time to circle the numerous parking lots and hopeful-

ly find a spot with time to spare before class starts. Another option is to park a little farther away. Some parking lots are more popular than others, so you are more likely to find a spot in one of the farther lots. The majority of parking lots are located north of campus, so you will likely have better luck parking there. Just be sure to account for a couple of extra minutes of walking!

Another solution is to stop driving altogether and opt for walking or bik-

ing to class. Not only will you avoid the parking struggle, but you will also get the benefits of daily exercise.

The final solution I have to offer is picking less popular class times if your schedule allows it. Generally, most students like to take classes in the morning, or from around 8 a.m. to noon. Planning your classes for the afternoon or evening means you will be more likely to get parking due to less people being on campus.



Editor: Nick Jahnke

# Moore invited to Seahawks’ mini-camp

**Bryce Weedman**  
*Senior Sports Reporter*

The Wildcat’s senior offensive line-men James Moore has been invited by the Seattle Seahawks to attend rookie mini-camp. General manager John Schneider and head coach Pete Carroll extended the invite to Moore following this year’s NFL draft.

“I’m so blessed to have this opportunity, and I want to take advantage of it for my family,” Moore said. “I thank God for this opportunity.”

“

I’m not doing this for money. I’m doing this for the love of the game and to make sure my family is set for life.

**James Moore, offensive line**

”

The NFL rookie mini-camp is a non-contact series of practices. There is no live blocking, tackling or bump-and-run pass coverage during the three days of the mini-camp. The players will not be wearing any pads, according to FOX Sports. Although these mini practices don’t stack up to full contact practices, it is still a chance for coaches to get a first look at conditioning and readiness of the players, according to FOX Sports.

The NFL Draft consists of 254 players being drafted over a span of three days. There are trades made and players from all college divisions are drafted, according to ESPN. Even after the draft ends, teams are still busy making front office decisions like signing undrafted free agents and extending invites to rookie mini-camps according to ESPN. Moore



Courtesy of Caleb Dunlop/Athletics

Senior offensive lineman James Moore has been invited to the Seattle Seahawks’ Rookie Mini-Camp. Moore hopes to hear about getting a contract with the Seahawks.



Courtesy of Jacob Thompson/CWU Athletics

Moore began playing football his senior year of highschool. In his senior year at CWU, he started in every game and only allowed two sacks the whole season. Moore hopes to continue his football career in the NFL.

is one of those unsigned and undrafted rookies who will be given a chance to compete for a spot on the team’s 40-man roster. The Seattle Seahawks signed 12 undrafted rookies on top of the 11 drafted in this year’s draft, according to the Seahawks’ website. Moore arrived Thursday morning to the Virginia Mason Athletic Center (VMAC) to begin his rookie mini-camp.

“When I first came to [CWU], I didn’t have much experience, and Coach Fisk told me I needed to change my whole game around if I wanted to make it to the NFL,” Moore said. “Coach Fisk was the first coach to ever be that brutally honest with me.”

According to Moore, he was a bit of a late bloomer in his football career. Moore began playing basketball at a young age and fell in love with the game. It wasn’t until his senior year in high school that Moore put on pads and started playing football. According to Moore, his friend wanted him to play football and Moore wasn’t interested but made a deal with his friend that if he played basketball then Moore would give football a shot.

According to CWU athletics Moore redshirted in 2014. He started nine games in 2015 and in 2016, he started all 10 games at left tackle. In 2017, Moore started every game and only surrendered two sacks all season. He was the leader of what ended being the nations 11th best rushing attack. In 2016, Moore was awarded All-GNAC second-team, GNAC all-conference first team, and Division II Conference Commissioners As-

sociation(D2CCA) and All-region second-team. In 2017 Moore was awarded All-GNAC first-team, D2CCA All-region first-team, and D2CCA All-American.

“I knew I had the potential to be good, but I didn’t really know how good yet,” Moore said.

Moore said his family is his biggest inspiration. He said he only had this opportunity because the people around him supported him and got him where he is today.

“I’m not doing this for money. I’m doing this for the love of the game and to make sure my family is set for life,” Moore said.

Moore said his family faced financial struggles growing up, and that if he could play professionally then he would be able to give his family a better life.

“I am not comfortable until my family is comfortable,” Moore said. “ If I can make it to the NFL then my family will never have to struggle ever again.”

Moore remembers all of the people along the way that said he couldn’t make it to the NFL. He said that a lot of people told him that his dreams were too big, and he was wasting his time. Moore never let those negative words affect his work ethic, and his belief that he could make it to the pros if he was given the chance.

Moore said that even if he doesn’t make it past mini-camp that he will not give up. He said that he will continue to go after his dream of playing in the NFL.

Moore will find out in the next few days if he will get a contract with the Seattle Seahawks. According to Moore, he is one of six players to be asked to do a physical for the Seahawks.



Editor: Nick Jahnke

# Track prepares for GNAC chamionships

Austin Lane  
Staff Reporter

The CWU Track and Field season is winding down to its final two events. This weekend, the team will travel to Monmouth, Oregon for the GNAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Western Oregon University (WOU) will host the championship event May 10-11. CWU will join WOU, Alaska Anchorage University, Concordia University, Montana State University Billings, Northwest Nazarene University, Saint Martin's University, Seattle Pacific University, Simon Fraser University and Western Washington University.

The GNAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships serve a double purpose. According to the GNAC website, athletes qualify for the event by being top-20 in an event on the Track and Field Results Reporting System or by "meeting GNAC standards."

The event is the last chance for athletes to qualify for the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships, the final event of the year that takes only the top athletes from the GNAC and the rest of the West Region. As a team, it's a chance for both the men and women's sides to take home the team honors for winning the GNAC Outdoor Championship. Because of this, sprints and jumps coach Bryan Mack is excited to see how certain athletes do, as well as how the team does as a whole.

"We always expect to win really," Mack said. "We've been top of the conference as far as women and men have been building up and I think this is the first year going into outdoors where both teams are top tier and both teams are looking for a team championship."

One athlete that Mack coaches is senior Aujanique Doss. Doss has qualified for the women's 100-meter, 200-meter and 4x100 relay. Doss considers helping her teammates win the GNAC Outdoor Championships a successful day.

"We're building ourselves up together with competing with people and getting into the right mindset," Doss said. "It's just another day at the track, it's not anything too big or too serious, just go in there healthy and prepared and do what I'm supposed to do."

In the GNAC Indoor Track and Field Championships back in February, the women's team came in second place to Seattle Pacific University and the men's team came in third behind Western Washington University and University of Alaska Anchorage. Zachary Whittaker, a qualifier for the triple jump, is looking to get a new personal record and a win at the outdoor championships, but he also thinks the team is capable of reaching new heights.

"We got a lot of good athletes on the team," Whittaker said. "The girls' team always has a pretty good shot at winning it, just comes down to a few events every year. The guys' team has good athletes like I said... we've been getting much better."

As of April 30, the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association West Region has the CWU Men's Track and Field team ranked 10th and the women's team ranked fifth, the highest ranked team in the GNAC.

Other athletes set to compete in the GNAC Championships include HarLee Ortega, Brooke Williams, Sidney Trinidad, Braydon Maier and many others. Recently, at the GNAC-Combined Events Championship, Ortega set a new school record in the women's heptathlon and automatically



Shawna Hettick/Observer  
The CWU women's track team is ranked 5th in the U.S, making them a top-ranked team in the nation.

qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Williams earned GNAC Field Athlete of the Week in April when she set a new school record in the women's long jump. Trinidad set a new GNAC record the same week in the women's 400-meter hurdles. Finally, Maier scored 7,005 points in the men's decathlon back in April, good enough for second-best in school history.

Junior Halle Irvine qualified for pole

vault and long jump. For the event, Irvine hopes that everyone has a good day and comes together to win as a team.

"Our girls' team is definitely capable of winning. We can definitely win several events at the meet and score in almost all of them so hopefully everyone comes and brings their A-game," Irvine said. "Hopefully we can take home a trophy at the end of the meet."



Shawna Hettick/Observer  
The CWU Men's and Women's Track Team will be at Western Oregon University on May 10-11 for the GNAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships. This is the last chance athletes will have to qualify for the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships.



Editor: Nick Jahnke

# Sports complex project awaits next phases



Courtesy of CWU Athletics

The sports complex project began with the renovation of Tomlinson Stadium and the plan is to add two additional facilities. Athletics is waiting for more funding to move on with the second and third phases of the project.

**Bryce Weedman**  
Senior Sports Reporter

Phase two and three of the CWU complex project do not have a set start date due to the lack of funding, but the university knows what the end goal should look like, according to Athletic Director Dennis Francois. Students, faculty and alumni had the chance to experience the newly updated Tomlinson Stadium in its first football season.

According to Francois, the updated turf, entrances and all other facilities, including the Wildcat Plaza, made many feel a sense of pride when going to the renovated stadium.

Donors and past alumni were a big

part of the first phase coming to life, giving tens of thousands of dollars to the project. Francois said that on top of the newly renovated stadium the university was able to build a brand new state-of-the-art track and multipurpose field which allows for student use during the day and night, along with intramural use.

“We probably rank right up there with some of the best track and fields in the state right now, and we hope we can use that for meets for high school and college meets in the future,” Francois said.

Francois said overall the university and the community were very happy with the result. Phase one of the project isn’t complete yet. There are still a few things that will be done, like the perma-

nent stands. Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs Tyler Unsicker said the process for phase one is still underway, but there is a need for funding.

“We have the space for permanent stands on the opposite side of Tomlinson Stadium, and we are ready to put them in once we get the money for it,” Unsicker said.

Where the current throwing area for track and field is, there will be an indoor soccer field with a track around it will be added. It will be used for indoor sports when the weather does not allow for the use of outdoor facilities. The third and final phase will be a multipurpose stadium connected to the back of Tomlinson Stadium. According to Francois, this

stadium will allow for a new and improved home for sports like basketball, volleyball and indoor events like concerts and commencement.

“Before the renovation to Tomlinson, if there wasn’t a Wildcat logo painted at the middle of the field, you might have thought you were at some high school field,” Francois said. “Now there is a sense of identity that you know you are at [CWU].”

According to Francois, the hope is that all three phases help better identify athletics at CWU. Francois believes this will allow for schools to bid on the use of our amenities and grow the population and the positive things that the community can produce.



## Central Park

APARTMENTS

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# MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019 • 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**HOLMES DINING ROOM**

General Public \$14.00 + tax  
Students \$9.80 + tax (meal plan discounts apply)

## MENU

Prime Rib	Asparagus	Brunch Classics
BBQ Salmon	Strawberry Shortcake	Cheesecake









CWU is an EEO/AA/Title IX Institution. For accommodation email: DS@cwu.edu. DS-0038-2019 LYR



Editor: Hanson Lee

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
					
79/50	85/54	87/57	85/55	84/54	80/53

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 10 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 14 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 17 mph.

Monday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 17 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of rain and winds around 15 mph.

Data sourced from weather.com. Information current as of publication date. Weather subject to change.

Ask Rune

The “Ask” column is written by one of our staff members. Opinions in this column are meant to be lighthearted and entertaining.

Dear Rune,  
I’ll be the first one to admit that fast food has always stolen my heart ever since coming to college. With that being said, I have to ask, if you could close one fast food chain, due to disgusting food, what would you pick and why?

Sincerely, Greasy Burger Fanatic

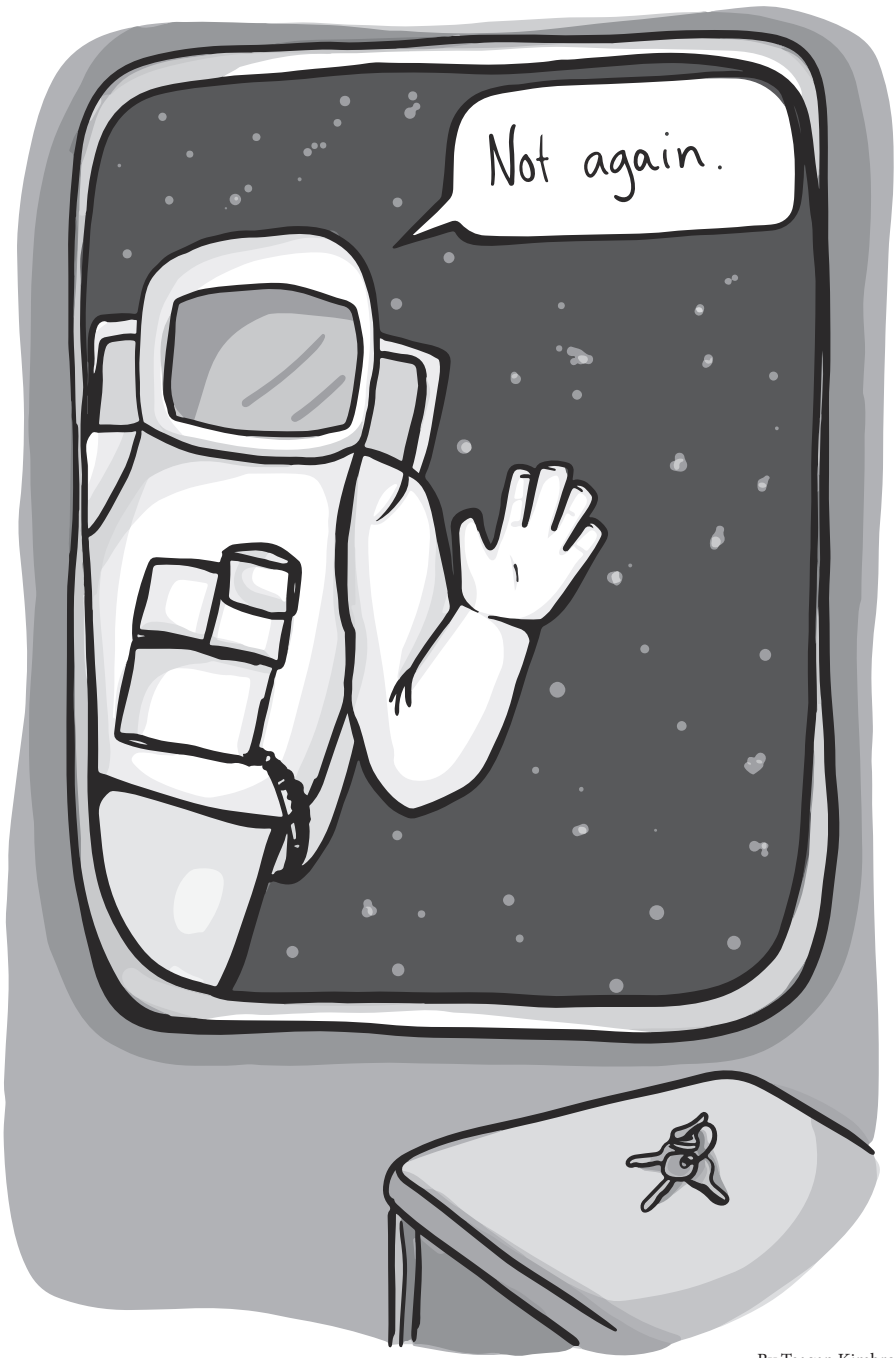
Dear Greasy,  
Fast food gets to us all on arrival to college. But when it comes to disgusting fast food, one place stands out above the rest. I remember it as though it was yesterday, mostly because I see it when I try to sleep at night. The doorknob to enter the place was somehow sticky and dusty at the same time, and I couldn’t quite tell whether the person taking my order was half-asleep or having a stroke. I ordered what I believed to be a pretty standard order. A burger with fries, some chicken strips and a medium soda. I thought the twenty-minute wait was a touch excessive, but then again, maybe they were just being extra careful with my food. What a fool I was. They had run out of trays, so my food was served on what appeared to be a hubcap from someone’s car, with a little road-kill still wedged into it. My “burger” was a charred hockey puck between two soggy pieces of bread. Someone had been kind enough to add mayo for flavor, but all it ended up doing was accentuating the burnt taste of the blackened mess in front of me. The fries didn’t fare much better, having the texture of something had been less “fried” and more “boiled slowly in oil.” One of my “chicken” strips still had a tail. Anyway that was nothing compared to my first time trying Arby’s, so I’d say shut that sandwich shop down already.

-Rune

This week in Observer history



On May 11, 2000, a pedestrian walking a dog was hit by a vehicle at Eighth and Main Street. The pedestrian ended up being released from the hospital with a broken leg. No injuries to the dog were reported from the accident.



By Teagan Kimbro

WHAT’S HAPPENING

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**  
**Lunch N Learn: College Tips & Tricks**  
12 - 1 p.m. • DEC, Black Hall 106  
Learn how to manage money, stress and college life in general. Treats!

**Off-Campus Housing Fair**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. • SURC E. Patio  
Learn about off-campus housing options. Giveaways, freebies, music!

**Open Mic Night**  
7:30 p.m. sign ups, 8 p.m. performances • 1891 Bistro  
Show up to perform or enjoy the show.

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**  
**The Amazing Race**  
2:30 p.m. • SURC Ballroom • Register in SURC 256  
Compete a series of challenges!

**Barrio Fiesta**  
3 - 6 p.m. • Barto Lawn  
Celebrate Filipino culture through music, dance, performances, food.

**Intramural Backyard Games Series**  
3 - 6 p.m. • Alder Fields  
Head over for drop-in ultimate Frisbee! imleagues.com/cwu

**FRI. MAY 10 - SUN. MAY 12**  
**Family Weekend 2019**  
Welcome to CWU, Wildcat families!  
Schedule at cwu.edu/student-union

**The Hunchback of Notre Dame**  
May 10 & 11 at 7:30 p.m.  
May 12 at 2 p.m. • cwu.edu/tickets  
McConnell Auditorium  
You will be swept away by the magic of this truly unforgettable musical!

**SAT. MAY 11**  
**Fill Out Your SEOs!**  
Take time to fill out your anonymous instructor evaluations (SEOs) this quarter! Feedback is important to your instructors and helps them develop class curriculum and more.

**MON. MAY 13**  
**ASCWU Public Meeting**  
1 p.m. • SURC Pit • Welcome to all!

**Social Justice in the Church:**  
**Keynote by Dr. Leroy Barber**  
6 - 7:30 p.m. • Samuelson 104 • Free

**Monday Movie: Green Book**  
7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free/\$3

**TUE. MAY 14**  
**Family Literacy Night**  
6 - 7 p.m. • Brooks Library 288 • Free

**Student Academic Senate (SAS)**  
6 - 7 p.m. • Black Hall 151 • Free

**WED. MAY 15**  
**Lunch N Learn: Gentrification**  
12 - 1 p.m. • Black Hall 105 • Free  
Presentation, trivia and discussion on global and local issues of gentrification.

**Triunfar: Moving Forward**  
5 p.m. • Dean Hall Lobby • Free  
Final event in student-led Latinx series!

**APPLY! CHAVEZ-KING LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**  
Applications are due by 5 p.m. May 24. Visit the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement in SURC 256 for more information.



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